Reforms in higher education

1735. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairperson of National Knowledge Commission (NKC), in his report to Prime Minister on 18th January, 2008, has stated that implementation of reforms in higher education was suffering due to rigid territorial mindset of Government;

(b) whether there is resistance at various levels in Government to new ideas, experimentations, re-engineering, external interventions, transparency and accountability;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to replace bodies like UGC, All India Council for Technical Education, Medical Council and Bar Council of India, by creating an independent Regulatory Authority for higher education;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) in the foreword of the Report to the Nation, 2007, of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC), the Chairman, NKC has, *inter-alia*, stated that "there is still resistance at various levels in the Government, to new ideas, experimentation, process re-engineering, external interventions, transparency and accountability, due to rigid organizational structures with territorial mind sets."

(c) No such proposal is presently under consideration.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Availability of teachers

1736. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that universalising elementary education could not be achieved because of inadequacy of teachers;

(b) whether in 2006-07, 18 of India's 35 States and Union Territories had more than half their primary schools with just three or even smaller number of teachers; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to improve the position of availability of teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) As per District Information System for Education (DISE) 2006-07 compiled by National University of Educational Planning and Administration, 20 out of 35 States/UTs had more than half primary schools with three or less number of teachers. Government of India under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme provides one teacher for every 40 children in primary and upper primary with at least two teachers in a primary school and one teacher for every class in the upper primary school. Upto 2007-08, 11.34 lakh teachers have been provided to States/UTs under the SSA programme.